infer a neurosis of an epileptiform nature, which, in its constant progress, is liable at any time to invade the pons, and occasion an outbreak of true epileptic convulsions. Such a stamp would explain the peculiarity of occurrence during sleep; period of repose for choreiform affections, and with them for the ordinary spasmus nutans.

I should be very happy if any member of the Society may pursue further than I have been able to do, the analysis of this case.

ART. IV.—THE TRANSFER OF SENSATIONS.*

BY PROF. ROBERTS BARTHOLOW, M. D., LL.D.

IT would seem to be a labor of supererogation to recall to the attention of this body those recent observations which have had for their object the decision of the question in respect to the route of communication between the sensory tracts on the two sides. Nevertheless, to properly introduce the subject, I must state the results which have been accomplished by the mode of experimentation which I have myself pursued, and briefly indicate the present condition of physiological knowledge on the particular point involved in my inquiry.

Brown-Séquard, as everybody knows, demonstrated the decussation of the sensory fibres to occur along the cord at numerous, if not innumerable points. It is true, he has since modified his opinions somewhat as to the exact seat of the decussation. That the grey substance of the cord is the channel of conduction of sensory impressions seems abundantly established by the recent experiments of Schiff (*Wiener med. Wochenschrift*, No. 43, 1879). By division of the white matter sensation was not impaired, but when the grey matter diation of pain in the neuralgias. There are other facts to show that the communication of painful impressions is more immediate along the same side than across, and that such impressions are transferred to the other side only when they have acquired great intensity. The first proof of this statement is pathological. When myelitis occurs above the dorso-lumbar enlargement of the cord, on tickling the bottom of the foot, the muscles of the corresponding leg are thrown into jactitation, and those of the other leg only after continued and prolonged titillation. The next proof is a matter of experiment. If the spinal cord of a pigeon be divided by a clean cut above the dorso-lumbar enlargement, and sufficient time allowed for the subsidence of the effects due to the injury, the conditions of the experiment are complete. Now on pinching a toe of the pigeon, the limb pinched will be thrown into active jactitations, and afterwards the other limb.

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